

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS STATE 302695

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SP

SUBJECT: SEIZURE FISHING VESSEL TEUCRO

REF: STATE 301789

1. US ATTORNEY NEW JERSEY DROPPING CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST MASTER OF FISHING VESSEL TEUCRO, JOSE VIDAL CURRAS. TEUCRO SEIZED DECEMBER 17 FOR TAKING AND KEEPING LOBSTER (SEE REFTEL). VESSEL STILL FACES CIVIL CHARGES IN FEDERAL COURT, MAXIMUM PENALTY FORFEITURE OF VESSEL.

2. THIS FIRST TIME CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST MASTER DROPPED IN SUCH A CASE. CURRAS DEALT WITH LENIENTLY BECAUSE HE WAS VERY COOPERATIVE WITH COAST GUARD, VERY YOUNG (30), THIS WAS FIRST CHARGE AGAINST SPANISH VESSEL FOR LOBSTER AND WAS TEUCRO'S MAIDEN VOYAGE IN WESTERN ATLANTIC. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

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